

he was one of the lecturers at a training centre organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization in fish-processing technology in the Philippines. In 1955 his book *Fish Saving* was published; this is a history of fish processing and likely to become a classic of its kind.

#### The Indian Botanic Garden, Calcutta: Dr. J. Sen

DR. J. SEN has recently been appointed superintendent, Indian Botanic Garden, Calcutta. He fills the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. D. Chatterjee under tragic circumstances. This is perhaps the oldest research post in botany in the oldest research centre in India. Dr. Sen was educated in Calcutta, where he developed an interest in morphology under the stimulating influence of Mr. A. K. Ghosh, now senior palynologist with the Oil and Natural Gas Commission of the Government of India. His first assignment for a couple of years was at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun. He joined the University of Calcutta as a lecturer in 1947, and until recently he had been at the University. Here he developed a small school of research workers, working on different aspects of palynology and floristics. Early in 1961 the Geological Society of London was pleased to help Dr. Sen with the Garwood Fund for his work on the flora of the Raniganj Coalfield. His previous work on genera like *Glossopteris* and *Vertebraria*, and on preservation and mineralization of plant tissues in sediments, is still being published. During 1956-57 he was a guest worker at the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, being an associate with Prof. O. H. Selling. He worked for another two years (1957-59) with Prof. John Walton in the University of Glasgow, and later worked under a scheme sponsored by the U.K. National Coal Board.

#### The Decimal System and British Coinage

ON January 11, the Treasury announced the names of the members of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Committee of Inquiry into the decimal system and British coinage (*Nature*, 193, 120: 1962). They are Lord Halsbury (chairman); Prof. R. G. D. Allen, professor of statistics, London School of Economics and Political Science; Mr. V. Ely, Elys Ltd., Wimbledon; Miss Anne Godwin, chairman of the Trades Union Congress; Mr. J. M. A. Smith, National Coal Board and formerly assistant managing director, Ford Motor Company Ltd.; Mr. R. G. Thornton, director, Barclays Bank Ltd. The Committee will also have the assistance of three assessors from the Treasury, the Bank of England and the Royal Mint.

#### British Centre of Educational Television Overseas

IN a written answer in the House of Commons on December 19, the Secretary for Technical Co-operation, Mr. D. Vosper, said that a Centre of Educational Television Overseas would shortly be established in Britain to advise and assist developing countries on the use of television for educational purposes. The Nuffield Foundation had played a leading part in bringing the Centre into being and was providing £100,000 over five years towards the cost. The Independent Television Companies were subscribing £100,000, and other firms and trusts another £50,000, while the British Broadcasting Corporation had offered full support with technical facilities and services. The Government was contributing £100,000 over five years. Earlier, Mr. Vosper indicated that he expected expenditure on Overseas Information Services next year to be reduced by £600,000.

#### Statistics of Murder

IN the latest Home Office Research Unit Report (Home Office Studies in the Causes of Delinquency and the Treatment of Offenders, No. 4, *Murder*. London: H.M.S.O., 1961. 4s.), Evelyn Gibson and S. Klein present an informative analysis of deaths initially recorded as murder by the police and carried through to the final decision reached. They point out that the increase in murder in recent years has been very small compared with the general increase in crime; indeed, the annual average number of murders per million of the population was 3.2 during the period 1931-40 and 3.3 for the period 1951-60. It is true that there has been a slight increase in the annual average of murders since the Homicide Act came into operation early in 1957; but in view of the wide and inexplicable fluctuations which the annual figures show it is extremely difficult to know whether significance can be attached to this finding. Further, it is noteworthy that the whole of this recent increase is attributable to men with criminal records. An analysis is presented of the types of victim and types of murderer involved. It emerges that by far the greater number of child victims were killed by a parent, typically as part of a family murder combined with parental suicide, and that nearly half the adult women victims were killed by their husbands. One may hope that this report will give impetus to more active research into the psychology and sociology of crime.

#### British Expenditure on Mental Health

IN a written answer on December 18 the Parliamentary Secretary for Science, Mr. Denzil Freeth, gave the expenditure of the Medical Research Council on mental health research in 1960-61 as £228,000. Considerable research was also undertaken in university departments and teaching hospitals, supported by block grants from the University Grants Committee, as well as within the National Health Services, and research was also supported by voluntary organizations, such as the Mental Health Research Fund, which spent more than £29,000 during 1960-61. The cost of the research supported by the Medical Research Council in 1960-61 was 4.7 per cent of its expenditure.

#### Diamond Research

THE Industrial Diamond Information Bureau has published a pamphlet describing facilities available at the Diamond Research Laboratory (*The Diamond Research Laboratory*. Pp. 4. London: The Industrial Diamond Information Bureau, 1961). The Laboratory was founded in Johannesburg in 1947 and serves users of industrial diamonds throughout the world. Among its functions are: to improve existing applications of the diamond in industry; to extend industrial uses; and to carry out fundamental research into the structure and properties of the diamond. The Laboratory is well known for its fundamental research and contributed to the successful synthesis of the diamond by the neighbouring and associated Adamant Research Laboratory in September 1959. The work of the Laboratory is organized in various departments devoted to physical, chemical and metallurgical problems, to testing diamond drills and grinding wheels, and to investigating the manufacture of diamond tools. Information about the Laboratory can be obtained from the Bureau at 2 Charterhouse Street, London, E.C.1.